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Earliest Illustration of an Unknown 1804 U.S. Dollar

Eric P. Newman

Contemporaries in War and Peace

Marilyn Reback

The Hasty Pudding Club Medals

John M. Sallay



The Numismatist

FEATURES

NUMISMATIC PROFILES

Contemporaries in War and Peace

- 1585 Medals and coins trace the careers and recall the contrasting personalities of Dwight D. Eisenhower and Charles De Gaulle. Born 100 years ago this year, they helped to shape the history of their nations and the world during World War II and its aftermath.

MARILYN BAKER REBACK

U.S. COINAGE

Earliest Illustration of an Unknown 1804 U.S. Dollar

- 1592 Surprising to some, new information about the 1804 U.S. dollar has been found that originated a decade before the previous earliest reference. The source of the information itself raises a variety of new questions.

ERIC P. NEWMAN

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The Pied Pipers of Numismatics

- 1599 Few collectors would go wrong to emulate the hobby's Numismatic Ambassadors—dedicated individuals who ask not what numismatics can do for them, but what they can do for numismatics.

BARBARA J. GREGORY

MEDALS

The Hasty Pudding Club Medals

- 1606 Looking for an escape from Harvard's rigorous curriculum, a group of young men formed a clandestine society devoted to puddings and plays. The club's medallic issues perpetuate the legacy of its founders.

JOHN M. SALLAY

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Homage to Olot

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**A Wealth of
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Ideas . . . page 1633**

DEPARTMENTS



COVER

On the 100th anniversary of the births of Dwight D. Eisenhower and Charles De Gaulle, it is appropriate to take a look at the coins and medals honoring these two powerful, though contrasting, men (page 1585).



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by David W. Lange
- 1642 Coins and Collectors
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tions, Catastrophe Major
Medical Insurance Plan,
Numismatic Art Award,
YN Literary Award Winners,
Medal of Merit Recipients,
Chicago Bourse Applications
- 1579 Numismatic Narratives

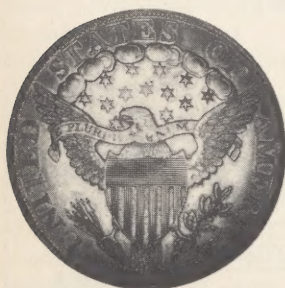
Over the years, a variety of medals have been produced for the Hasty Pudding Club, Harvard University's clandestine society characterized by theatricals and evenings spent around pots of pudding (page 1606).

HARVARD THEATRE COLLECTION

Earliest Illustration of an Unknown 1804 U.S. Dollar

Surprising to some, new information about the 1804 U.S. dollar has been found that originated a decade before the previous earliest reference. The source of the information itself raises a variety of new questions.

by Eric P. Newman
LM 619



The 1804 dollars presently known were struck more than two years after the new evidence was published. ANA MUSEUM

THE APPEARANCE OF a previously unknown United States dollar dated 1804 near the end of the 20th century would be a shocking event. With the continuing publicity that the known 1804 U.S. dollars have been receiving and the extensive research that has been done on their background, one would conclude that the chances for even the discovery of a picture of a new variety of that coin were nil. Yet, such matters have a way of astonishing the most sophisticated.

It has long been accepted that the first public disclosure of the existence of a U.S. dollar dated 1804 was in 1842, when an illustration of the coin was included by Jacob R. Eckfeldt and William E. DuBois in their book entitled *A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations* (Philadelphia, 1842). The fact that sets of U.S. coins were officially requested by the State Department of the United States for presentation purposes has been in the U.S. records since 1834, but there is no mention that the date 1804 was to appear on any coin in any of the sets. No denominations were mentioned in the request, and no dollar denomination had been struck for more than 30 years. New findings, however, necessitate a modification of the priority of the 1842 illustration.

Early in 1990 I received a letter from George F. Kolbe, prominent California-based dealer in numismatic literature. He sent me written evidence that Alfred Szego of West Sayville, New York, had located an earlier reference to a U.S. dollar dated 1804 than the 1842 date that Kolbe had mentioned in his description of an Eckfeldt and DuBois volume ("Public and Mail Bid Auction Sale XLIII, Important Numismatic Books," February

THE NEW EVIDENCE is from 1832, . . . more than two years before the presently known examples of 1804 dollars were first struck.

.....



The earliest known illustration of an 1804 U.S. dollar was prepared by Urosius Andreits in Budapest in 1832. The illustration of the obverse shows 14 instead of 13 stars. The reverse has an eagle within a wreath instead of the Heraldic Eagle design. On the edge, RUNDRED is a misspelling of HUNDRED. (Bottom image enlarged 1.5 times.)



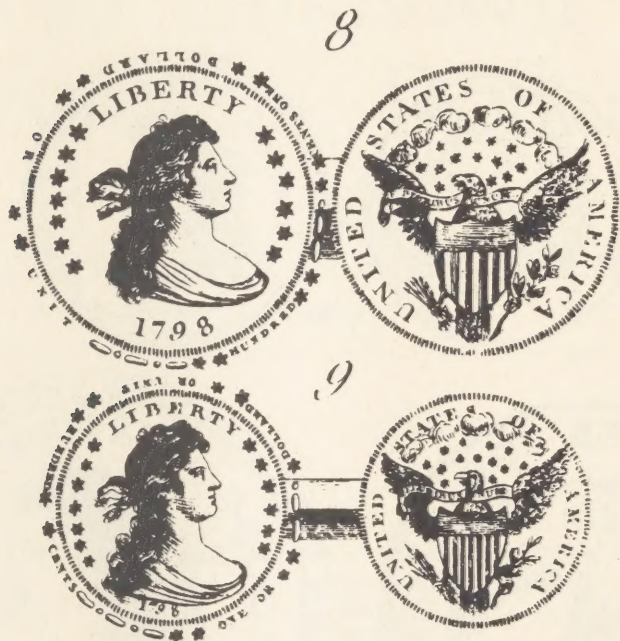
2, 1990, Lot 347). Szego, a numismatic professional, bibliophile and expert in many European and classical numismatic fields, realized that he had information that apparently preceded anything else known about an 1804 U.S. dollar.

It was a pleasant surprise to have the evidence turned over to me so that I might research it. In 1962 I had written *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar* with my friend Kenneth E. Bressett, and separately and together we have continued the saga ever since with a series of updates and many responses to challenges to the book's conclusions.

The new evidence is from 1832, 10 years before the Eckfeldt and DuBois publication and more than two years before the presently known examples of 1804 dollars were first struck. The evidence is unimpeachable as to its

THE INTRODUCTORY PORTION of the book is dated 21 January 1832, and all the coins listed or illustrated are dated from 1800 through 1831.

Illustrations of a 1798 U.S. dollar (#8) and a non-existent 1798 U.S. half dollar (#9), each with edge legend for the \$1, appeared in *Traité des Monnaies D'or et D'argent*, published by Pierre-Frédéric Bonneville at Paris in 1806.



1832 origin. Urosius Andreits, a specialist in Oriental matters in the book-publishing house of the Royal Hungarian University, authored *Münz-Journal als Stammbuch der Geschichte und Denkmahl des Neunzehnten Jabrbunderts* ("Coin Journal, Being an Album of History and Commemorative of the Nineteenth Century"), which was published in the German language in 1832. Some portions were prepared in Ofen (Buda) and some in Pesth. (In 1872 Ofen, a city on the right bank of the Danube, joined Pesth, on the left bank, to form Budapest, Hungary.) The introductory portion of the book is dated 21 January 1832, and all the coins listed or illustrated are dated from 1800 through 1831. The work is divided into four parts, each part having impressions of coin obverses and reverses from four engraved, copper plates.

Names of the various kinds of money of the world are printed in alphabetical order in a schedule running from part to part. The United States (American) coin listings include the cent, dime or disme, dollar, eagle, half cent, half dollar and quarter eagle, but do not mention the half dime, quarter dollar or half eagle. The dollar is described as "Nordamer. Staaten Silber Münze zu 10 Dimes oder zu 100 cents" ("North American States Silver

Money of 10 Dimes or 100 Cents"). The four United States coins illustrated are described briefly in a separate table in the applicable part and consist of:

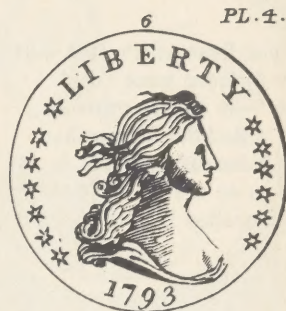
- 1804 quarter eagle described as a ducat (part 1, plate I, #33)
- 1804 dollar (part 2, plate II, #12)
- 1809 50 cents (part 2, plate IV, #7)
- 1807 \$5 (part 3, plate I, #25)

The 1804 dollar obverse is illustrated in actual size and has eight stars to the left of the bust and six stars to the right, making a total of 14 stars. The obverse is surrounded by a touching, concentric band containing edge detail consisting of:

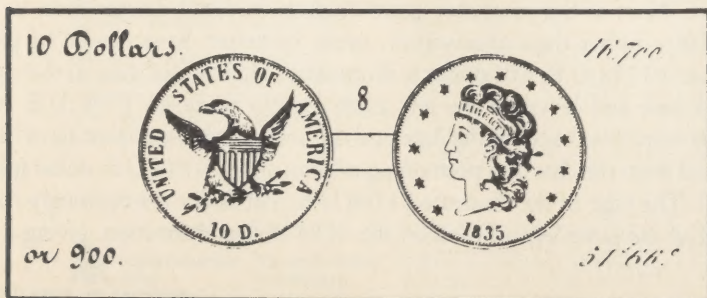
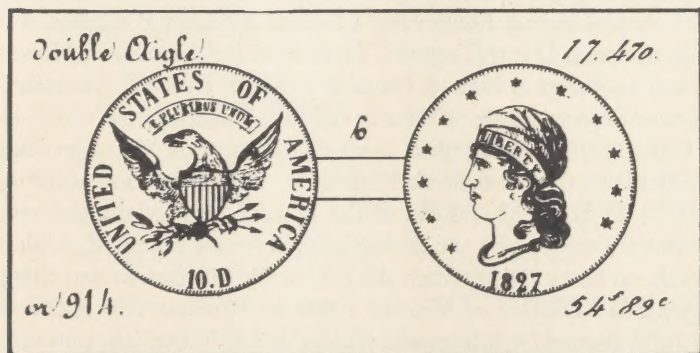
ONE ★★ DOLLAR ★★ OR ★★ UNIT --- ★★★ RUNDRED --- ★★ CENTS ★★ ★★

The total number of edge stars is 15, HUNDRED is misspelled RUNDRED, and the 4 in the date has no vertical crosslet on its horizontal bar. The top curl in Liberty's hair is below the space between I and B of LIBERTY.

The reverse of the 1804 dollar also is shown actual size and has an eagle standing on a rock within a wreath, as used from 1794 into 1798—not the Heraldic Eagle design used on dollars for part of 1798 and thereafter through 1803 and on the dollars antedated 1804. Between the lower part of the two coin faces is "2f 4k," which represents a value of 2 Imperial Hungarian florins and 4 kreutzers. This illustration is now the earliest known image of an 1804 U.S. dollar.

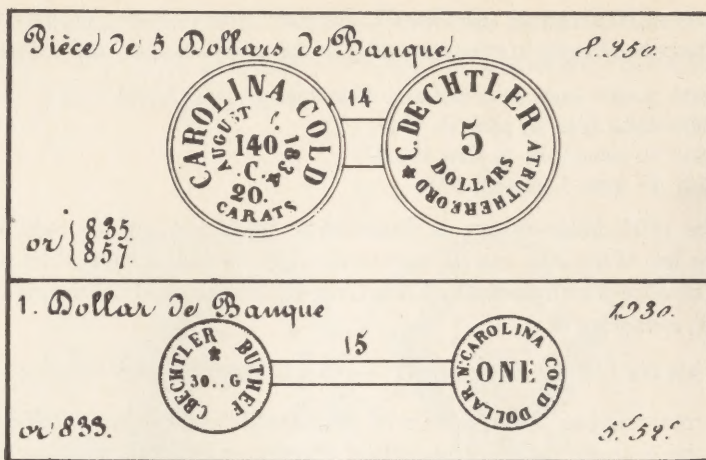


London goldsmith J. Ede described a non-existent 1793 U.S. dollar obverse, illustrated with engravings by J. Dodd, in an 1808 book.



Non-existent 1827 and 1835 U.S. \$10 gold coins were shown in *Encyclopédie Monétaire ou Nouveau Traité des Monnaies D'or et D'argent* by August Bonnevillie in Paris in 1849. The 1827 \$10 has only 12 stars and is erroneously called a double eagle.

August Bonneville's 1849 work also included some "cold cash"—an 1834 Bechtler \$5 and a Bechtler \$1 inscribed COLD instead of GOLD. In addition, on the \$1, RUTHERF. is misspelled BUTHEF.



An 1804 U.S. dollar illustration on an unidentified German broadside, circa 1840, was copied from the 1832 Andreits illustration, including the misspelling RUNDRED on the edge.

Mistakes in illustrations of the edge lettering and ornamentation can be readily understood, considering the occasional lack of clarity of the impressions on the planchet edges from the dies in the Castaing machine for U.S. dollars. But, caution is suggested when considering 14 stars around the bust and the mating of an abandoned reverse design with an obverse dated 1804. What did the illustrator know, what did he assume and what did he guess at?

Naturally, the revelation of the 1804 illustration led me to a review of other early foreign publications containing pictures of United States coins. In 1806 Pierre-Frédéric Bonneville, a French commercial assayer, wrote *Traité des Monnaies D'or et D'argent* ("Treatise on Gold and Silver Money"), which was published in Paris. It contains a chapter entitled "Monnaies de L'Amérique Septentrionale" ("Money of North America"), in which coins of the United States are described. It states that there are "les aigles (eagles) de 5 dollars et les double aigles de 10 dollars." This designation of the eagle as the U.S. \$5 gold coin instead of the \$10 gold coin continued uncorrected and was copied by the author's nephew and successor, Alphonse Bonneville, as late as 1849, when the title of the publication was changed to *Encyclopédie Monétaire ou Nouveau Traité des Monnaies D'or et D'argent*.

The 1806 Bonneville listings and illustrations of American coins are extensive. Most of the pieces are quite accurate in detail. Imagination or assumption, rather than observation, must, however, have played its part, because a 1798 U.S. half dollar is illustrated as having six stars to the right of the bust and seven to the left (plate 2, #9). Since no 1798 U.S. half dollars were ever minted, the date and the star distribution must have been adapted from the date and positioning of stars on the 1798 U.S. dollar (plate 2, #8). The edge of the illustrated 1798 U.S. half dollar is surprisingly composed of the same legend used on the 1798 dollar illustration, giving a \$1

continued on page 1657

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1804 Dollar

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denomination to a half dollar. Similarly, the edges of two varieties of 1795 U.S. half dollars (plate 2, #2 and #7) also carry the conflicting edge denomination used on the dollars (plate 2, #1, #6 and #8).

By the 1849 edition of the Bonneville publication, the creation of imaginary coins had not abated. An 1827 U.S. \$10 gold piece (plate 1, #6, referred to as a "Double Aigle") was created graphically to accompany the \$5 gold piece of the same date. The \$10 coin has only 12 stars, but its weight of 17.470 grams and value of 54 francs, 89 centimes are carefully included for such a non-existent coin. A non-existent 1835 U.S. \$10 gold piece (plate 1, #8) is illustrated, with a weight

of 16.700 grams and a value of 51 francs, 66 centimes, being developed as an extrapolation of the standard 1835 U.S. \$5 gold piece (plate 1, #9), which the illustrator apparently had at hand.

There are other curious errors in that the illustrations of the 1834 \$5 Christopher Bechtler (plate 1, #14) and the \$1 Bechtler (plate 1, #15) carry the word COLD instead of GOLD. The \$1 Bechtler also has BUTHEF instead of the abbreviation RUTHERF.

On the 1834 U.S. half dollar (plate 3, #3), the number of stars erroneously is seven to the left of the bust and seven to the right. Similarly improper, there are six stars to the left and six to the right on the 1836 10-cent piece (plate 3, #5), the 1837 5-cent piece (plate 3, #6) and the New Orleans Mint 1839 half dollar (plate 3, #7).

In 1807 Hugues Darier, a commercial assayer in Geneva, published *Tableau du Titre, Poids et Valeur des Différentes Monnaies D'or et D'argent Qui Circulent dans le Commerce avec Empreintes* ("Table of Names, Weights and Values of the Different Gold and Silver Coins Which Circulate in Commerce, with Illustrations") and generally copied Bonneville's writings and illustrations as to the United States coinage. The text and illustrations continue the Bonneville error of designating the \$5 gold coin as an eagle and the \$10 as a double eagle. This error remained uncorrected in subsequent editions of Darier.

In 1808 J. Ede, a London goldsmith, published *A View of the Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations*, with engravings prepared by J. Dodd. The United States coins described and illustrated

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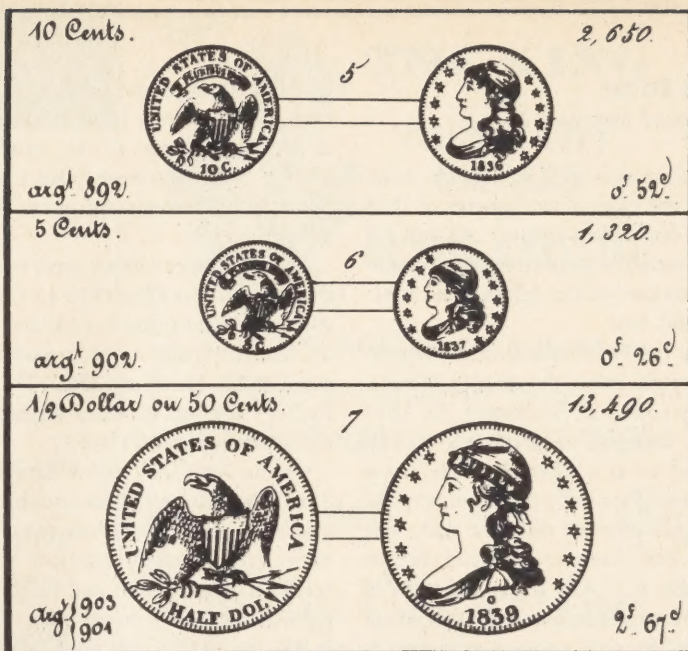
consist of the following:

- 1795 half disme (plate 19, #8)
- 1796 disme (plate 24, #4)
- 1805 quarter dollar (plate 21, #12)
- 1796 half dollar (plate 15, #8)
- 1798 \$5 half eagle (plate 31, #4)
- 1801 \$10 eagle (plate 27, #1)

It is carefully stated

that all the possible exactness has, in this publication, been observed. I hope the Public will be convinced, when assured that the Engravings have been made from the best Impressions of the Coins themselves collected at great expense, and from some of the best cabinets in Europe.

To find a non-existent United States coin in this group would make the assurances quoted above somewhat unconvincing. Yet, there lies the obverse of a 1793 U.S. dollar, dated one year



U.S. coins in Bonneville's 1849 book are depicted with 12 stars instead of 13.

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before U.S. dollar coinage began and bearing a date borne only by the first U.S. half cents and cents. With six stars to the right and seven stars to the left of the bust, this positioning also was four years ahead of its time with respect to any U.S. coinage and five years ahead of its time to U.S. dollars.

An additional foreign source, an unidentified canvas-backed, eight-panel world coin chart entitled *Abbildungen von Gold und Silber Münzen des 19ten Jahrhunderts* ("Collection of Gold and Silver 19th Century Money") illustrates both faces of 85 coins, the earliest being dated 1800 and the latest 1839. It can therefore be assumed that it was published circa 1840 and is of German or Austrian origin.

The U.S. dollar in Panel 3 is dated 1804 and seems to be a direct copy of the Andreits illustration, with eight

stars to the left and six stars to the right of the bust and the curl below the space between the I and B of LIBERTY. The spelling error RUNDRED in the edge legend has also been carefully copied. It differs from the Andreits illustration in minor ways. The border dentils are all clearly bullet-nosed on both obverse and reverse views, whereas on the Andreits illustration many of the dentils have pointed ends facing inward. The facial expression is sadder than the Andreits profile.

Above the coin are the words "Nord Americanischer Dollar" and below it "2f 3k in 20 Guld Fuss." The value assigned to the coin is slightly different from that on the Andreits plate, being 1 kreutzer ($\frac{1}{60}$ of a florin) lower than the latter. It is also made clear that the value is given in Imperial Hungarian florins, having 20 groschen

to the reichsgulden base, rather than in Hungarian florins, having about 24 groschen to that base. The Imperial florin of Lower Hungary had close to a 20 percent greater value than the Hungarian florin of Upper Hungary, and thus the values of specie coin fluctuated.

On the same Panel 3 is an 1804 U.S. \$2.50 gold coin copied directly from Andreits and described above the illustration as "Americaner Adler Ducaten" ("American Eagle Ducat"). It also is the same variety with 14 stars on the reverse, just as one variety of the genuine 1804 \$2.50 coin had.

The foregoing observations reinforce the conclusion that prior to the use of photography and embossing for coin illustrations, many engraved, lithographed, wood-cut or other hand-drawn images of coins contained inac-

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THEN THERE IS the intriguing question as to whether by 1834 any United States Mint officials were aware of the 1832 Andreits publication . . .

curacies caused by human error. This was particularly true of classical coinage and was not unusual when illustrations of coins of one country were drawn by artisans of another. Yet, when an illustration of a coin such as a then non-existent U.S. dollar dated 1804 appears, one cannot help wondering if the illustrator knew something we would like to know now.

Then there is the intriguing question as to whether by 1834 any United States Mint officials were aware of the 1832 Andreits publication, and, if so, could they have been influenced into

thinking that 1804 U.S. dollars actually existed? Could the Andreits publication have sparked the creation in late 1834/early 1835 of the first U.S. dollars dated 1804, along with the resulting violation of the law against the improper dating of U.S. coinage, and the cover-up and deception undertaken after the coining of the 1804 dollars at the U.S. Mint? It is something to think about and let your imagination run away with.

Nevertheless, the earliest illustration of a U.S. dollar dated 1804 should now be recognized as being prepared in 1832. It was published before any 1804 U.S. dollar was planned or struck. It is the first known information about U.S. dollars dated 1804.

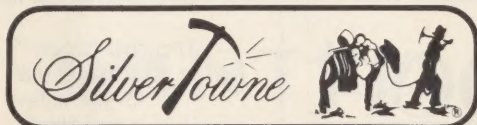
If my friend Aaron Feldman were alive today, I would ask him to amend his motto "Buy the book before the

coin" by adding "and if a coin was described in a book prepared years before that coin was prepared—be prepared."

Acknowledgment

Additional thanks for cooperation in locating foreign publications is appreciatively given to Francis D. Campbell of the American Numismatic Society and to Alfred Szego, who initiated this bizarre research project. •

A member of THE NUMISMATIST'S Editorial Advisory Board, Eric P. Newman is a respected authority on American numismatics. He is the only person to be awarded both the ANA's Farman Zerbe Memorial Award and the American Numismatic Society's Archer M. Huntington Medal, the biggest numismatic accolades bestowed by each organization. A winner of 15 Heath Literary Awards, Newman's last article for THE NUMISMATIST, co-authored with Ronald L. Horstman, detailed "The Earliest Known Error on Federal Paper Money" (November 1987).



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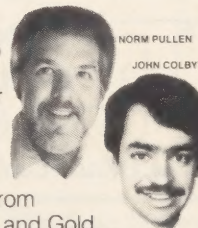
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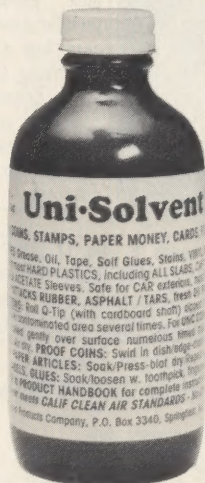


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